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ANZ and Griffith University warn students of rising “quick-cash” money mule scams

As students across the country settle into the university year, ANZ, [together with strategic research and training partner Griffith University](#), is urging students and young people to remain alert to a rise in so-called “quick-cash” money mule scams.

Criminal groups are increasingly targeting students – particularly those living away from home or studying internationally – both online and in person, offering easy payments in exchange for access to bank accounts or identity documents. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has previously flagged this tactic as [a growing threat to Australians](#).

According to the AFP, organised crime syndicates are offering several hundred dollars – sometimes with additional commission – for the use of bank accounts. Identity documents such as passports and driver licences are also being sought so criminals can open fraudulent accounts in victims’ names.

ANZ’s Customer Protection team reports that students (around 9%) and unemployed customers (approximately 23%) accounted for one-third of scam/fraud fund recipients between September 2025 and March 2026. In that time, ANZ’s mule detection technology proactively identified ~4,000 high-risk accounts to be further investigated.

ANZ Senior Manager, Complex Investigations, Marc Broome, said: “Scammers are deliberately targeting young people who may be financially vulnerable or unfamiliar with Australian laws. Selling or ‘loaning’ your bank account or identity puts you at risk of being linked to money laundering and other crimes.”

ANZ has observed increasingly brazen approaches, with scammers contacting students via social media platforms, messaging apps, and even in person near university campuses and student accommodation.

Griffith University scam expert Associate Professor Jacqueline Drew said: “Students are targeted as money mules in many different ways, often without realising what’s happening. This can range from fake job offers to investment scams that promise high returns. Cybercriminals can be highly organised, patient, and skilled at building trust.

“If you think you may have been caught up in a money mule scam, it’s vital to report it as soon as possible. If you have been unknowingly tricked and caught up in a scheme, coming forward does not mean that you will be in trouble. Instead, it helps banks, law enforcement, and government agencies prevent you and others being further exploited by these criminals.”

Mr Broome added: “These tactics may seem harmless on the surface, but the impact can be severe and long-lasting. We’re urging all students to protect themselves by never sharing their bank account details or identity documents, and by rejecting any request to receive or transfer money on behalf of someone else.

“ANZ remains committed to identifying and blocking mule accounts, helping to disrupt the infrastructure that scammers rely on to carry out criminal activity, and prevent harm. We will play our role, but it is also important that customers remain wary of unsolicited contact and get in touch with us if something doesn’t feel right.”

Students who believe they have been approached or targeted are encouraged to contact ANZ immediately, report the incident to authorities, and seek support from their university’s student services. If contact came through university-related channels, report the incident to your university’s cybersecurity support team.

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ANZ's customer protection teams and systems operate 24/7. Customers who believe they may have been a victim of a scam should contact us immediately, on 13 13 14 or visit us at <http://www.anz.com.au/security/report-fraud/> for more information.

For more information on the types of scams and how to protect yourself visit <http://www.anz.com.au/security/types-of-scams>.



About ANZ Scam Safe: To assist the community in remaining aware and alert to the constantly changing scams and fraud environment, ANZ has launched *Scam Safe*.

Scam Safe highlights the latest cyber security and fraud issues impacting the community and what ANZ is doing to help protect our customers.

To stay *Scam Safe*, ANZ encourages customers to learn their security ANZ's:

A: Always be wary

N: Never share personal information, with anyone

Z: Zoom in on the details, they matter

About Griffith University: Griffith University is a top-ranked, research-intensive institution in South East Queensland, Australia, established in 1975. Known for its focus on sustainability, social justice, and high employability, it ranks in the top 2% of universities globally.

In 2025, ANZ announced strategic partnerships with Griffith University (and the University of Queensland), strengthening its long-term commitment to Queensland following its acquisition of Suncorp Bank. Griffith University's strengths in digital innovation, fraud prevention, and cybersecurity are important to [ANZ's work in continuing to invest](#) in security measures and capabilities, helping protect our customers and the community from the ongoing threats of scams and financial crime.